



“We just kind of go wild in the mall, to put it bluntly I guess.
We just really try to make each other laugh the entire morning.”

Kaitlyn Hetzel, Black Friday shopper from Madison



Joey Roszak (from left), Kaitlyn Hetzel, Erin Fazer and Jamie King, all siblings or cousins from Cedarburg, add to the holiday spirit by dressing up as elves. They check out scents at Bath & Body Works in Mayfair mall in Wauwatosa on Black Friday. They were among shoppers who got up early to get deals at area merchants. RICK WOOD/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Black Friday sparks family bonding, too

Rick Romell Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

There are Black Friday deal-grabbers, the up-all-night folks who forgo part of Thanksgiving to bring home a ridiculously cheap high-definition TV or a half-price laptop.

There are Black Friday traditionalists, who take a day concocted to fatten retailers’ bottom lines and turn it into a bonding ritual with family and friends.

Then there’s Kaitlyn Hetzel and her crew.

A fun-loving, attention-grabbing bunch, they hit the stores each Black Friday not only early, but in costume. It started with Christmas sweaters. Then came headbands, sunglasses and tights. Last year they paraded around in onesies.

“And this year we decided we’re Santa’s elves,” said Hetzel, a 27-year-old software company em-

ployee from Madison who met her two older sisters, her brother and a cousin — all appropriately dressed — at 3:30 a.m. at the Target in Grafton.

Turns out it was closed, but no problem. The elf troop simply marched on to Kohl’s and Meijer, stopped to refuel at Starbucks, and hit Mayfair —

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Concert ticket prices likely higher at new arena

Experts say facility’s design means more higher-cost seats are sold

Piet Levy Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

When the new, \$524 million home of the Milwaukee Bucks opens next year, team leaders hope to bring in big acts and more tours annually than the doomed BMO Harris Bradley Center.

Expect the average cost of a concert ticket to go up, too, industry experts predict.

“There’s no doubt the arena is going to want to draw in as many shows as possible...,” said Dean Budnick, editor-in-chief of music news site Relix and co-author of the 2011 book “Ticket Masters: The Rise of the Concert Industry and How the Public Got Scalped.”

“Premiere acts know a shiny new venue will want premiere acts, and the shiny new venue is going to have to pay for them,” Budnick said.

They also know that new venues have top-of-the-line amenities and benefit from a “honeymoon period” where event attendance, and sales, should be substantial.

That combination attracts top-tier talent that may have skipped a market in the past and whose major paydays frequently drive up ticket costs, said Gary Bongiovanni, editor-in-chief of concert trade publication Pollstar.

The average cost for a concert ticket at the new arena — publicly financed by taxpayers to the tune of \$250 million — will also likely go up because of its design.

About 65% of the forthcoming arena’s 17,500 seats will be in the lower bowl, which will typically allow promoters to sell more higher-cost tickets compared with the Bradley, where about 40% of seats are in the

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FINDING NEW FUEL

County zoo tests clean-burning wood chips to power train

Meg Jones Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

It’s easy to tell when the Milwaukee County Zoo’s steam locomotives are chugging around the track that encircles the facility.

The white smoke billowing from the stack is the first clue, and the pungent sulfur smell from burning coal is the second.

But someday, zoo visitors could ride steam trains that emit no smoke and hardly any odor thanks to a solid biofuel made from renewable wood that’s being tested at the zoo.

Developed by the Coalition for Sustainable Rail and the Natural Resources

Research Institute, the fuel is made from wood chips. Three different blends have been tested on the zoo’s two steam locomotives, with the most recent test earlier this month.

“It’s really cool to have a different fuel source than coal. It’s cleaner and doesn’t stink,” said Becky Danes, the first female Milwaukee County Zoo train operator in two decades. “There’s no sulfur smell, no heavy metals in the bio-fuel.”

Any type of wood can be used, and the chips are treated in a kiln similar to a coffee roaster before being turned into pill-shaped briquets with a type of glue called guar gum as a binder, said Davidson Ward, president of the Minnesota nonprofit, the Coalition for Sustainable

Rail.

Ward is friends with Milwaukee County Zoo train engineer Ken Ristow. He asked Ristow if the zoo’s two 1958 steam locomotives could be used as guinea pigs to test the biomass fuel.

The first test in June 2016 of small rabbit food-like pellets did not go well because the pellets fell through the coal-burning boxes on the locomotives. It burned well — hot enough to power the engine — but the size and shape were not ideal.

A second test in October 2016, this time of the biofuel without a binding agent, fired off way too many sparks. The third attempt earlier this month

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Davidson Ward, president of the Coalition for Sustainable Rail, holds biofuel pellets that were tested on the Milwaukee Zoo’s steam trains. ANGELA PETERSON / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Deadly attack in Egypt

A terrorist attack during prayers at a mosque in Egypt kills at least 235. **6A**

Lincoln Hills tour

After a tour, two lawmakers say the Lincoln Hills prison needs more staff. **3A**

Weather

High 43° ☒ Low 48°
Partly cloudy. Forecast, **4C**

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